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Atty Dkt No. 706599US2

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REMARKS:

Claims 1-9 and 14-22 have been cancelled, leaving claims 10-13 pending in the application. All amendments have been carefully made and clearly would not require further searching by the Examiner. No new matter has been added.

Turning now to the issues raised in the Office Action, all of the claims were rejected as failing to comply with the written description requirement and also as being indefinite. These rejections are believed to be overcome by the amendment of claim 10 which now makes reference to three bolts, not a single bolt, and makes it clear how the various parts of the structure interrelate to one another. The provision of at least a second bolt was brought out in the original claims, and accordingly was searched by the Examiner in the first action. No new issues are presented by the claims as now amended. Such amended claims are believed to comply with the written description requirement and to be clear and definite.

Claim 10 has been amended to include the limitations of cancelled claim 9. Claim 10 calls for a locking plate having a ring-shaped body, and first and second extensions extending from the ring-shaped body. The ring-shaped body includes a plurality of bendable locking tabs, the first extension includes the second plurality of bendable locking tabs and the second extension includes a third plurality of bendable locking tabs. The first plurality of locking tabs are movable between an engaged position contacting a head of the bolt and a disengaged position retracted from the head of the bolt. The second plurality of locking tabs are movable between an engaged position contacting a second head of a second bolt, used for securing the locking plate to the

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workpiece, to prevent rotation of the second bolt, and a disengaged position removed from the second head of the second bolt. The third plurality of locking tabs operate similarly to the second plurality of locking tabs for engaging and disengaging a third head of a third bolt. Nothing similar to a bolt lock as thus defined in claim 10 is shown in any of the references.

All of the claims were rejected as being unpatentable over Martin et al., U.S. Patent 5,415,509 hereinafter "Martin" in view of Olsson U.S. Patent 4,737,057 hereinafter "Olsson" and also in view of Wilson U.S. Patent 1,657,949 hereinafter "Wilson". Reconsideration of the rejection of the claims on these references in view of the amendments to the claims and these remarks is respectfully requested. Martin, the principle reference, discloses a lock plate 51 and a retaining ring 80. The retaining ring 80 has discs 82 each having a bolt hole 84 for a bolt 78 adapted to thread into the web 30 of the drive gear 20. Each of the discs 82 has bendable tabs 90-94 adapted to be bent into engagement with the head of one of the bolts 78. However the retaining ring 80 does not have any bendable tabs on the body of the ring for engaging the center bolt 36. Martin also discloses a lock plate 51 best shown in figure 7, but the lock plate 51 does not have any bendable locking tabs. The Examiner acknowledges that Martin does not disclose a ring-shaped body having a first plurality of bendable locking tabs.

To overcome the deficiency of Martin, the Examiner refers to the secondary references Olsson and Wilson. However these references merely show more or less conventional devices having locking tabs for engaging a fastener. There is nothing in either Wilson or Olsson to suggest any modification of Martin. There is no teaching

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reference to suggest that the lock plate 51 of Martin be replaced, or to suggest that either the locking plate 51 or the retaining ring 80 of Martin be modified to apply bendable locking tabs to a ring-shaped body. Such modifications of Martin are suggested only by Applicants' own disclosure. There is no teaching reference outside of Applicants' disclosure for this combination of references.

Accordingly claim 10 is believed to be in condition for allowance.


Claim 11 depends from claim 10 and further defines the ring-shaped body, the first extension, and the second extension as being formed of a single piece of material. Claim 12 further states that the first plurality of tabs are spaced apart along a radially inner edge of the ring-shaped body. Claim 13 further states that the second plurality of bendable locking tabs project radially outwardly from the first extension and the third plurality of bendable locking tabs project radially outwardly from the second extension. Claims 11-13 are believed to be allowable along with claim 10 and also because of the added limitations of novelty recited therein.

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In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that the claims remaining in the application are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration of the claims and passage of the application to issue are courteously requested. If a telephone conference would expedite allowance or resolution of any further questions, such a conference with the undersigned is invited at the convenience of the Examiner.

Respectfully submitted,

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